



Sun Worship

Nick Mills, Senior Engineer at Dulas Ltd and Hugo House of Good Energy explain the potential of solar power and how people in Britain can find the information they need and get involved in microgeneration.

The more energy we use, the more essential it is to our lives. The issue of energy supply has become a political priority, and as the fear of supply security grows there is a risk that people and politicians will sideline the environmental issues of energy production.

It is essential that both energy and the environment are considered equally; there is little point being awash with energy if our world is uninhabitable.

Nearly all of the world's energy resources have been produced by the sun so it makes sense to tap its power directly.

Photovoltaic (PV) panels, a type of solar panel, turn the sun's rays into electricity. Most PV is made from Silicon which when introduced to light causes electrons to start moving which in turn creates a Voltage. In the simplest systems the current is a direct current, and generally used to charge up batteries. Dulas has been providing PV powered vaccine fridges and bore-hole pumps to developing countries for over 24 years. (www.dulas.org.uk/solaroverseas)

PV has great application in the UK because it requires virtually no maintenance, and providing it is installed correctly will give you a guaranteed energy supply each year. Installing PV is a very successful solution to both the energy and environmental challenges of the future.

At Good Energy we think that microgeneration has a huge role to play in the future supply of energy in the UK. We already buy power from 200 microgenerators, and now we are working with organisations like Dulas to bring information to you on these new technologies. If you want to find out anything more on renewable energy and what you can do, contact us on 0845 456 1640 or visit www.good-energy.co.uk and follow the Home Generation sections.

A PV array requires an un-shaded space with a southerly aspect, usually your roof although it can be mounted in the garden. There are several options for a roof mounted system including replacing roof materials with solar tiles or panels or simply installing on your existing roof. For every type of roof there is a solar option, there are even special light weight solutions for flat roofs.

In the UK climate a typical system is a 1 kiloWatt peak (kWp) system. You can expect this to generate between 750 - 950 kWh (electricity units) each year; enough to power up to 30% of a domestic customer's needs. This size of system will need a good sized roof, approximately 8m².

PV will cost around £7000/ kWp installed. The government **low carbon buildings programme** offers grants of up to £3000/kWp (for more information visit www.good-energy.co.uk/home/33_factfile.html)

As a Good Energy customer you will be able to sign up to the Good Energy Home Generation scheme which will pay you about £40 each year for every 1kWp installed, in addition to the savings made on your bill.

The Energy Saving Trust (www.est.org.uk) recently delivered a report for the DTI stating that micro power could deliver 40% of Britain's power by 2050. Perhaps you can help Britain to reach that target.

New Generator – The Greenhouse

As our customer numbers increase, we continue to source renewable electricity from new generators. In March this year Groundwork West Durham, whose vision is to improve the local environment by building sustainable communities, completed The Greenhouse project in Stanley. The Greenhouse is an award-winning prototype business centre which incorporates many types of renewable technology, including a refurbished wind turbine from which we have agreed to buy the power until 2011. The 225 kW turbine generates enough renewable electricity for about 125 Good Energy customers.



Good Energy wins Ethical Award

Good Energy's Chief Executive, Juliet Davenport, has won the first Woman in Ethical Business Award created by Triodos Bank and Eve Magazine. Juliet was chosen from some outstanding, ethical business-women representing Green Baby, People Tree and Planet Organic.

Triodos' Managing Director, Charles Middleton, said; "The breadth of experience and talent shown here demonstrates that women entrepreneurs really are driving forward a way of doing business that values people and the planet as well as profit."

Good Energy has also been short-listed for The Ashden Awards 2006, arguably the most prestigious award for sustainable energy.

We have been nominated for our Home Generation scheme which rewards people producing renewable electricity at home from microgenerators. To learn more about Home Generation go to www.good-energy.co.uk/home/33_generation and visit our home page from 15th June to read about the Ashden Award winners.



Customer Feature

Donnachadh McCarthy, a customer of Good Energy is becoming a familiar face and one most recently seen on BBC2's, 'It's not easy being green'. Donnachadh is the author of 'Saving the Planet without costing the Earth'. The book provides 500 simple steps to a greener lifestyle. The team at Good Energy has found the book compulsive reading and each of us have taken away more than a tip or two from this great manual for green living. If you would like some more information on Donnachadh and his book, visit www.3acorns.co.uk



Improved Customer Service

With over 18,000 Good Energy customers, the time to bring in our own customer service and billing team is perfect. Although we have limited our opening hours to 8.30am to 6.30pm we will be operating with greater efficiency and providing a better service. We are confident that our customers are already enjoying these improvements.

Omission

In April we wrote to you about changes to our prices. We should have said that you have the right to change supplier, and if you contacted us within 14 days of receiving the letter we would not change the prices you pay for our electricity while you found a different supplier.

We apologise for not including this statement. We admit our mistake and we are keen to fix the situation. If any customer contacts us within 14 days of receiving this newsletter to say they were not happy with April's price increase and wish to leave Good Energy, we will not increase the price they pay for our electricity provided they switch to a new supplier within a reasonable timescale. If you no longer want Good Energy, call 0845 456 1640 and quote 'Omission'.

The letter included our new prices, and you can find them at www.good-energy.co.uk or call 0845 456 1410.

Wind Weekend 2006

On the 28th-29th August bank holiday we will be hosting the second annual Wind Weekend at Delabole Windfarm in north Cornwall. Last year, hundreds of people came to see us and to learn about electricity generated by the power of the wind.

This year we want hundreds more to come and see renewable energy in action, enjoy the activities for children and families, great local, organic food and drink and the beauty of Cornwall.

Tickets will be free and you can request them by visiting the events page on our website www.good-energy.co.uk/home/34_events.html where we will list all details.

If you work with renewables, micro renewables, organisations concerned with Climate Change or sustainable living and want to get involved in Wind Weekend 2006, email newsletter@good-energy.co.uk or call 0845 4561640

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ARE YOU GOOD OR JUST AVERAGE?
 - WHERE DOES YOUR ELECTRICITY COME FROM?



GOOD ENERGY



UK AVERAGE

COAL
 GAS
 NUCLEAR
 RENEWABLE
 OTHER